Defoe (1) Sach. 74/2

A

LETTER

FROM

Captain *TOM*

TO THE

MOBB,

Now Rais'd for

Dr. Sacheverell:

Gentlemen, Brothers, and Fellow-Citizens,

FOR ſo I ſhall ſtill call you, tho at preſent you fight under a Uſurper, and in Defence of ſo baſe a Cauſe, that your Honourable Forefathers would ſooner have dy'd than liſt up a Club or a Paring-Shovel for't: But as I was ſaying, Gentlemen, Do you conſi-

der what it is that you are now up for? It is to justify Dr. *S*——*l*'s Sermon against the Queen, Lords and Commons. Sure this must be a rare Sermon, that has so many and so learned Friends as you to defend it! But for my part, I have drank many Pots of Ale in reading it, with some of my most understanding Neighbours; and we can neither make Sense nor Divinity of it. I went one day to *Billingsgate*, and was reading it, with *Will. Jobber* and *Dick. Trueman*, and some others; and *Will.* said, Pray God the Doctor han't been too free with my Wife, for I find many Sayings in that Sermon so like hers in some of her Tantrams, that he never could have them from any other body: And I have ask'd several Parsons, both High-Church and Low-Church, about it, and all agree that there's no Doctrine, no Learning, no Depth in it; nay, that what little Scripture he has brought into't, is falsify'd with wrong Turns and Misapplications. Many a better and more edifying Discourse have I made in *Moorfields* and *Lincolns-Inns-fields*, and to much better Purposes. Mine have been always in Defence of the Protestant Religion and Government; but this Usurping Doctor, who is now at your Head, preaches for Popery and *Perkin*. A Blessed Cause for the free Citizens of *London* to appear in!

But then you'll say the Doctor has preach'd up Passive Obedience and Non-Resistance, and you stand up for them: Why, you Degenerate Boobys, if you believe the Doctor has preach'd in earnest such Doctrines, what makes you rise to fly in the Face, and to resist your lawful Governours? Does your Doctor preach one thing, and practise another? But alas! you are so thick-skul'd, that you know not the meaning of those words Passive Obe-

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dience and Non-Reſiſtance. I muſt tell you, they are two of the moſt Dangerous, Deſtructive, Horrid Monſters, that ever were ſhown in *England*; and if the Parliament had not ſecur'd them by ſtrong Chains, and confin'd them within ſuch thick Walls, that they can never break out, moſt of the Men and Women in *England* had been devour'd by them long ſince, and few of the City Aldermen or Merchants had been left worth one Groat. Theſe worthy Doctrines, which you are now huzzaing for, gives up your Wives, your Children, your Goods and Fortunes, all to the Pleaſure of a Tyrannical Prince; and if he comes to take your Lives, raviſh your Wives and Daughters, & make Ducks & Drakes of all your Money, you are only to cry, "Welcome, Sir, here's my Neck at your 'ſervice: Will you pleaſe to lie with my Wife or 'my Daughter? And pleaſe to accept of all I 'have in the World. Is this a Cauſe for free-born Subjects to engage in? I am aſham'd and griev'd that ſuch ſlaviſh Souls ſhould diſhonour the Name and Title of Mobb. But you are the firſt. and I hope will be the laſt Mobb, that ever ſtood up againſt Liberty and Property, and the Freedom of the Subject. You a Mobb! You are the Scum and Dregs, the Tools and Vaſſals of the Romiſh Brood, and ſent from their dark helliſh Cabals, once more (if you could) to blow up the Queen and Parliament.

Ay, but you ſtand up for the Church, the High-Church! Pray, Gentlemen, what Church do you mean? Is it not the Church of *Rome*? No other was ever known in *England* by the Name of High-Church: and I muſt needs ſay, that if you don't mean that, you mean nothing. Does not your Bully Doctor and his Faction now join with the

Romiſh Party ? Are not all the Papiſts and Nonjurors in the Kingdom now working and plotting to encourage him ? Are not many hundreds of that vile Race now among your ſelves? And how many *Iriſh* Papiſts were known to walk, & huzza, and cry *High-Church* before your Doctor to the Temple ? Pray, what Church are ſuch Men for ſetting up ? And pray conſider, if your High-Churchmen, who call themſelves Proteſtants, have not been making very faſt towards *Rome* ? Have they form'd no Projects for an Accomodation with the Popiſh Church in *France* ? Have they not brought newly in among us ſeveral Popiſh, mere Popiſh Doctrines, and preach'd and publiſh'd them to the People ? Are they not for changing the Sacrament into the Maſs, the Idolatrous Maſs, and making it a real Sacrifice? Are they not inſiſting againſt the Queen's Supremacy in the Church ? Are not theſe Popiſh Tenets now held by all your High-Churchmen ? And if they have gone ſo far under a Government which abhors Popery, what will they do when they get the Government, which they long for, on their ſide ? Here, Gentlemen, lies the Danger of the Church ; not in thoſe you call Low-Churchmen. Which of them has writ, or preach'd, or publiſh'd any thing in favour of the Diſſenters ? If they treat the Diſſenters civilly, and ſay they ought to be us'd like Men and Chriſtians, and good Fellow Subjects ; are they for this to be call'd *Falſe Brethren* and *Traitors* ? If ſo, what Brethren are they, that keep conſtant company with Prieſts and Jeſuits, that ſet up profeſs'd Jacobites for the Champions of their Party, that retail the pitiful Papers of the Nonjurors throughout the Kingdom, and lick

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up the Spittle of that Party, to ſputter it out again from their Pulpits ?

You know, Gentlemen, that I was ever for Juſtice and fair Play, and for calling a Spade a Spade ; and if you will have thoſe you call Low-Churchmen to be Diſſenters, then I claim all the High Ones for Papiſts, and will be bound to make out a much better Title to mine, than you can do to yours.

But will your Wiſdoms pleaſe to conſider, what Danger the Church is in, what one Injury has been done to it; is any part of its Doctrine or Diſcipline incroach'd upon? Is any part of its Revenues or Incomes taken away? Has any one Miniſter of the Church been diſturb'd or affronted for doing his Duty ? Are not the Laws & Judges as favourable to it as ever ? Are not the Biſhops as much reſpected, and have as much Power and Credit as at any time ſince the Reformation ? Does any Man traduce or vilify the worthy Prelates who preſerve our Conſtitution, except your High-Churchmen? and yet theſe are the Men for whom you leave your Stalls and your Bulks, to cry up High-Church. You beſotted Fools! get you home to your Houſes, if you have any, and borrow ſo much Senſe from your honeſt Neighbours, as to know that the Church is in no Danger, ſince it has God to protect it, the Queen, and ſo many good Biſhops to govern it, and the Lords and Commons to defend it, and a moderate peaceable Clergy to aſſert its Doctrines, and at the ſame time not to drive Men away from it by Fury, Malice and Railing. And now that you have appear'd in ſuch a wretched Cauſe, and under ſuch a Tool of a Champion, what mighty Actions have you done ? Why truly you have gutted half a

dozen Meeting-Houſes, and burnt the Pews: Great Feats indeed! Did any of you attempt a Jacobite or Popiſh Conventicle? No, theſe are your Ringleaders, the Knaves that work by ſuch ſtupid Fools; you muſt not affront them nor your Maſter *Perkin*. But I think that few of you ſtir for this Cauſe alone, but to plunder, and rob, and pilfer Houſes, and to beg or force Money from them, who dare not deny you. You Thieves, you everlaſting Blot and Diſgrace to the Honour of the Mobility! Did you ever hear or know that the Citizens, which I have ſo often and glorioufly headed, did rob, or take Money, or plunder Houſes? No, you poor mercenary Wretches, when I and my Friends roſe, it was for Juſtice, and Liberty, and the Government, and the Proteſtant Religion; and any one of mine that ſhould take the value of a Penny to enrich himſelf, I would have hang'd him. But you ſcoundrel Rogues and Beggars do it for Bread and Wages. And why ſo hard upon poor Dr. *Burgeſs*? Does not he divert you and your Betters two or three times a week at his own Expence? Has he or any of his Brethren preach'd or practis'd any thing againſt the Government? Are not their People quiet, and loyal, and peaceable under Her Majeſty? Have not they contributed to the Revolution and the War, as much Blood and Treaſure as their Neighbours? Have they not paid their Taxes as chearfully? And which of them have been found in any Plots or Treaſons to bring in the *French* and your little Idol? Is it for being ſuch good Subjects that their Houſes muſt be pull'd down; & becauſe they have Toleration by Law, muſt they therefore be murder'd? If there were one Drop of Proteſtant Blood in the whole Body of you, you cou'd not be

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ſuch ignorant beſotted Beaſts, ſo blindly to damn your ſelves and ruin your Neighbours, and all to make the Nation Slaves, and to bring in Wooden Shoes and *French* Popery.

But to let you ſee that you are worſe than Brutes, that you are Rebels and Vipers in the Boſom of the Government; your honeſt and brave Country-Men have for twenty Years paſt hazarded their Lives in War againſt *France*, and under the Conduct of the great & gallant Duke of *Marlborough*, have brought more Honour and Glory to the Queen and Her Kingdoms, than all the Reigns of Her Predeceſſors together. And now that they have beaten the Tyrant Monſieur, and forc'd him to beg a Peace; you his hir'd Slaves, and Traitors to GOD and your Country, have riſen up to breed War and Sedition at Home: and by your Means, and the Hopes given the old Tyrant by your unnatural Rebellion, he deſigns to get that Advantage by your Villany and Treachery, that he never yet was able to get in the Field. Are you not rare *Engliſhmen*, fine Churchmen, excellent Proteſtants, who now at this Time, when a happy Peace ſeems to draw on very faſt towards us, are doing all in your Power to aſſiſt the Enemy of our Religion and Country, and to force ſuch Terms of Peace upon us, as that cruel Tyrant may think fit to give? But this will be the laſt Attempt of you and your treacherous Party, and I doubt not to ſee many of the hardeſt and higheſt Heads of you juſtly hang'd up for it. I had ſome Thoughts to bring a hundred or two of my brave & hearty Friends to ſuppreſs you and your Thouſands; but the Government have ſent a few Horſe & Foot, at the Sight of whom you run like your ſelves, and do now ſculk like Jail-Birds, as I know the moſt

of

of you are. Yet I am told that you talk of appearing again; which if you dare do, I ſhall ſhew you the Difference between freeborn, natural *Engliſh* Proteſtant Courage, and the raſcal Cowardice of *Popiſh* Slaves, who rebel againſt their Queen and Country for *French* Money. I revoke the Titles of Gentlemen, *&c.* that I gave you in the Beginning of this Letter; for upon ſecond and better Thoughts, you are ſuch a Pack of hireling Scoundrels, that I now defy and deſpiſe you; and if you ſtir once more, am reſolv'd to chaſtiſe you ſeverely.

Captain *TOM.*

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